

**Senate File 353 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 353

BY SCHNEIDER

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requesting the establishment of an interim committee  
2 to study the feasibility of allowing a day of virtual  
3 instruction to count as a minimum school day when inclement  
4 weather causes schools to close.  
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE — VIRTUAL INSTRUCTIONAL  
2 DAYS.

3 1. The legislative council is requested to establish an  
4 interim study committee to study and make recommendations  
5 relating to the feasibility of allowing school districts  
6 and accredited nonpublic schools to count a day of virtual  
7 instruction as a minimum school day when inclement weather  
8 causes schools to close and instructional staff and students  
9 engage in curriculum-aligned instructional and learning  
10 opportunities from home.

11 2. The study committee shall review and provide an analysis  
12 of the following:

13 a. School districts or accredited nonpublic schools in Iowa  
14 currently offering virtual instructional days.

15 b. Authorization of virtual instructional days by other  
16 states.

17 c. Potential barriers to allowing school districts and  
18 accredited schools to count virtual instructional days as  
19 minimum school days to avoid extending the school calendar.

20 d. Opportunities to overcome the barriers identified under  
21 paragraph "c" without need for new state funding.

22 e. Best practices for utilizing virtual instructional days  
23 as minimum school days.

24 3. The study committee shall submit a report with its  
25 analysis, findings, and recommendations to the general assembly  
26 by December 20, 2019.

27 EXPLANATION

28 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
29 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

30 This bill requests the legislative council to establish  
31 an interim study committee to study and make recommendations  
32 relating to the feasibility of allowing school districts  
33 and accredited nonpublic schools to count a day of virtual  
34 instruction as a minimum school day when inclement weather  
35 causes schools to close and instructional staff and students

1 engage in curriculum-aligned instructional and learning  
2 opportunities from home.

3     The study committee shall review and provide an analysis  
4 of school districts or accredited nonpublic schools in Iowa  
5 currently offering virtual instructional days, authorization of  
6 virtual instructional days by other states, potential barriers  
7 to allowing virtual instructional days to be counted as minimum  
8 school days, opportunities to overcome such barriers without  
9 need for new state funding, and best practices for utilizing  
10 virtual instructional days as minimum school days.

11     The study committee shall submit a report with its analysis,  
12 findings, and recommendations to the general assembly by  
13 December 20, 2019.